

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-25. **(Canceled)**

26. **(Currently Amended)** A catheter comprising:

a catheter shaft having a distal end and a proximal end, the proximal end including a bending section, the bending section comprising one or more spiral cuts in the catheter shaft, the bending section having a flexibility greater than the flexibility of the portion of the catheter shaft adjacent the bending section;

a balloon secured to the distal end;

a fitting secured to the proximal end, the fitting including a passageway in fluid communication with the catheter shaft; and

a fluid impermeable covering disposed upon the bending section to seal the bending section.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 26, wherein the fitting is a luer fitting.

28. **(Canceled)**

29. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 26, wherein the spiral cut is formed with a selectable number of spiral sections.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 26, wherein the fluid impermeable covering is shaped as a sleeve or a tube.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 26, wherein the fluid impermeable covering is adhesively bonded to the bending section.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 26, wherein the fitting comprises a transition member connected to the proximal end, and wherein the transition member is structured to prevent unintended kinking of at least a portion of the bending section.

33. – 34. **(Canceled)**

35. **(Currently Amended)** A catheter comprising:
a fitting including a passageway;
a catheter shaft including a distal end and proximal end being coupled to the fitting, which is in fluid communication with the catheter shaft, the proximal end including a bending section comprising one or more cuts in the catheter shaft, the bending section having a flexibility greater than the flexibility of the adjacent portion of the catheter shaft; and
a fluid impermeable covering disposed to seal the one or[[e]] more cuts of the bending section.

36. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 35, wherein the one or more cuts are spiral cuts.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 35, wherein the fitting comprises a transition member coupled to the catheter shaft.

38. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 35, further comprising a balloon at the distal end of the catheter shaft.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 38, further comprising an inflation device coupled to the fitting for expanding the balloon.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 35, wherein the fitting is a luer fitting.

41. **(New)** A catheter comprising:
- a catheter shaft having a distal end, a proximal end, and a first cross-sectional diameter, the proximal end including a bending section, the bending section comprising one or more cuts in the catheter shaft, the bending section having a flexibility greater than the flexibility of the portion of the catheter shaft adjacent the bending section;
- a balloon secured to the distal end;
- a fitting secured to the proximal end and having a second cross-section diameter greater than the first cross-sectional diameter; and
- a fluid impermeable covering disposed upon the bending section to seal the bending section
42. **(New)** The catheter of claim 41, wherein the one or more cuts are spiral cuts.
43. **(New)** The catheter of claim 41, wherein the fitting comprises a transition member coupled to the catheter shaft.
44. **(New)** The catheter of claim 41, further comprising a balloon at the distal end of the catheter shaft.
45. **(New)** The catheter of claim 44, further comprising an inflation device coupled to the fitting for expanding the balloon.
46. **(New)** The catheter of claim 41, wherein the fitting is a luer fitting.